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Department of State

3/20/77

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ORIGIN ARA-15

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STATE 137786

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INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 ICAC-00
INRE-00 HA-05 TSEE-00 AIO-05 /063 RDRAFTED BY ARA/ECA: CHBRAYSHAW/RR
APPROVED BY ARA: VPVAKY
ARA/RCGUZMAN
ARA/ECA: CWRUSER
ARA/ECA: CWRUSERO 301404Z MAY 79
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

STATE 137786

E.O. 12065 GDS 5/29/85 (RUSER, C.V.)

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY MEETS WITH ARGENTINE
AMBASSADOR

1. ENTIRE TEXT

2. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL MET AT HIS REQUEST ON MAY 29 WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY VAKY TO DISCUSS CURRENT STATE OF U.S.-ARGENTINE RELATIONS. AJA ESPIL FOCUSED HIS ATTENTION ON RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HE BELIEVED WERE NOT CONTRIBUTING TO A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES, CITING SPECIFICALLY STATEMENTS BY DEPARTMENT TO SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE, A SPEECH GIVEN BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY PATRICIA DERIAN IN MIAMI, AND OFFICIAL U.S. SPONSORSHIP OF A SYMPOSIUM AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY. AJA ESPIL URGED THAT EXPRESSION OF U.S. CONCERNS OVER HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE BE LIMITED TO PRIVATE DIALOGUE WHERE GREATEST POTENTIAL FOR CONCRETE IMPROVEMENTS EXIST. AMBASSADOR VAKY TOLD AJA ESPIL THAT WE RECOGNIZE IMPROVEMENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE BUT WE BELIEVE SERIOUS PROBLEMS REMAIN AND UNTIL THEY ARE RESOLVED OUR RELATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE CONDITIONED BY HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS. END SUMMARY.

3. AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL BEGAN HIS REVIEW OF CURRENT STATE OF RELATIONS WITH DISCUSSION OF RECENT U.S. PRESS COVERAGE OF ARGENTINA. HE SAID THAT HE WAS MOST DISTURBED THAT NEW YORK TIMES AND NEW YORK CITY BAR ASSOCIATION HAD CHOSEN TO BE HIGHLY CRITICAL WITHOUT ACKNOWLEDGING RECENT IMPROVEMENT NOR THE FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE THEY HAD RECEIVED FOR THEIR VISITS. HE RECOGNIZED THAT THESE PRESS REPORTS STAND OUTSIDE OFFICIAL RELATIONS, BUT POINTED OUT THAT THEY GIVE ELEMENTS IN THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WHO OPPOSE THE IACHR VISIT ARGUMENTS TO USE AGAINST IT. WHOLLY NEGATIVE REPORTS DAMAGE INTERLOCUTORS SUCH AS HIMSELF WHO SEEK TO OPEN DOORS TO A FULL EXCHANGE.

4. AJA ESPIL THEN FOCUSED HIS MAIN ATTENTION ON MORE "BOTHERSOME" OFFICIAL U.S. STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS WHICH HE SAID DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO A FRUITFUL DIALOGUE INSOFAR AS THERE IS A GAP BETWEEN IMPROVEMENTS IN ARGENTINA AND OUR RESPONSE TO THEM. HE CITED A LETTER ADDRESSED FROM THE DEPARTMENT TO SENATOR ZORINSKY IN CONNECTION WITH SENATE REVIEW OF A PROPOSAL TO REMOVE LEGISLATIVE PROHIBITIONS AGAINST ARMS SALES TO ARGENTINA AND CHILE. THIS LETTER, HE SAID, DID NOT REFLECT PREVIOUS DEPARTMENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT IMPROVEMENTS HAD TAKEN PLACE IN THE

HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA. HE NEXT MENTIONED A SPEECH GIVEN BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN IN MIAMI ON MAY 18 WHICH REFERRED TO "OFFICIAL ABDUCTIONS," A FORMULATION THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAS PUBLICLY REPUDIATED AS UNTRUE. AJA ESPIL REGRETTED THAT THERE WAS NO OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT AT THE GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY FORUM ON ARGENTINA WHILE AT THE SAME TIME THE DEPARTMENT FINANCED A SYMPOSIUM AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WHICH SELECTED ONLY ARGENTINES LIVING IN EXILE AS SPEAKERS. THESE ACTIONS HE CONCLUDED, DO NOT HELP THOSE ELEMENTS ON EACH SIDE THAT WANT TO CONTINUE A DIALOGUE. WE NEED INTERLOCUTORS HE EMPHASIZED, AND ADDED THAT HE AND AMBASSADOR CASTRO ARE LOSING A SENSE OF CONVICTION IN THIS ROLE BECAUSE OF THE PRESSURES. HE URGED THAT U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS BE EXPRESSED IN PRIVATE CHANNELS SUCH AS BETWEEN PRESIDENT VIDELA AND VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE WHERE THE POTENTIAL FOR CONCRETE DEVELOPMENTS IS GREATEST.

5. AMBASSADOR VAKY TOLD AJA ESPIL THAT IN GENERAL WE ARE PLEASED THAT THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS IN THE IMPORTANT

AREA OF DISAPPEARANCES, BUT WE REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT THE OVERALL HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA, AND, FRANKLY STATED, AS LONG AS WE HAVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS OUR RELATIONS WILL BE CONDITIONED BY THEM. IN THE AREA OF DISAPPEARANCES SPECIFICALLY, HE MENTIONED THE CONTINUING PUZZLING CASES OF PERSONS WHO DROP OUT OF SIGHT, FOLLOWING THE OLD PATTERNS. WE ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED, HE WENT ON, THAT SOME PEOPLE WHO HAVE DISAPPEARED RECENTLY APPEAR NOT TO BE SUBVERSIVES, BUT HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS. AMBASSADOR VAKY NOTED AS WELL THAT MS. DERIAN'S SPEECH IN MIAMI REFLECTED GENUINE U.S. CONCERNS ABOUT CONTINUING HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS, INCLUDING THE ISSUE OF THE MOTHERS WHO CANNOT GET INFORMATION ABOUT MISSING RELATIVES. HE SAID THAT OUR PUBLIC STATEMENTS MUST REFLECT WHAT OUR POLICY IS AND IT IS WHOLLY APPROPRIATE TO COMMENT ON OUR HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS. REFERRING TO AJA ESPIL'S REMARK ABOUT POSSIBLE DAMAGE DONE TO THE IACHR VISIT, AMBASSADOR VAKY POINTED OUT THAT OPPOSITION IN ARGENTINA TO THE VISIT WOULD BE VERY DAMAGING. CHRISTOPHER

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (X) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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